

## Message Text

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FOL REPEAT ISLAMABAD 3312 SENT ACTION SECSTATE APR 02

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S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 3312

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MASS, PK, US

SUBJECT: JEZEBEL

1. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS QUESTION OF RELEASE OF JEZEBEL  
TO PAK NAVY IS STILL UNDER REVIEW IN WASHINGTON. WE REALIZE  
DECISION WILL BE MADE BASICALLY ON QUESTION OF TECHNICAL  
CONCERN, AND USG POLITICAL INTERESTS IN MAKING SYSTEM  
AVAILABLE WILL HAVE A LESSER IMPACT ON FINAL DECISION. IT  
MAY BE USEFUL, HOWEVER, FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO HAVE OUR  
VIEWS ON THIS ISSUE.

2. SALE OF JEZEBEL WOULD FALL WELL WITHIN GUIDELINES  
ESTABLISHED WHEN OUR ARMS SUPPLY POLICY WAS MODIFIED  
IN FEBRUARY 1975. JEZEBEL WOULD ENHANCE PAKISTAN'S  
DEFENSIVE CAPABILITY AND STRENGTHEN ONE OF WEAKEST  
POINTS IN ITS DEFENSIVE STRUCTURE - ITS ASW CAPABILITY  
AND ITS ABILITY TO DEFEND ITS COAST AND PORTS AGAINST  
AGGRESSION. THE SALE WILL NOT UPSET THE PRESENT

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MILITARY EQUATION IN THE REGION; RATHER, IT WILL BE POSITIVE

MOVE IN THAT IT MAY HELP SLOW DOWN THE ACCELERATING DISPARITY BETWEEN PAK AND INDIAN SEA POWER.

3. GOP REQUESTS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF JEZEBEL DECISION HAVE BEEN MADE TO ALL LEVELS OF THE EMBASSY. IT HAS BEEN RAISED NOT ONLY WITH ODRP AND POL SECTION, BUT AZIZ AHMED HAS ALSO DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE SEVERAL TIMES WITH THE AMBASSADOR. HIGHEST LEVELS IN GOP HAVE BEEN CONVINCED BY THEIR MILITARY THAT JEZEBEL IS ESSENTIAL PART OF PAKISTAN'S DEFENSIVE STRUCTURE, AND THERE IS INCREASED QUESTIONING OF OUR REASONS FOR NOT MAKING SYSTEM AVAILABLE. PAK NAVY REALIZES CENTRAL CONSIDERATION IS DISCLOSURE POLICY AND IS CONCERNED THAT OUR REFUSAL TO RELEASE INDICATES OUR LACK OF TRUST IN THEIR ABILITY TO SAFEGUARD CERTAIN TYPES OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION. THIS CONCERN AND HOW IT REFLECTS ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN NOTED AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL AS WELL.

4. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THE GOP DOES NOT WANT TO COMPLETE ATLANTIQUE SALE UNLESS THE JEZEBEL IS INCLUDED. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT EVER TOLD GOP THE JEZEBEL WOULD BE RELEASED, IT DOES SEEM THERE WAS SOME INITIAL MISUNDERSTANDING OVER THIS ISSUE. ALTHOUGH THIS IS NOT AN OVERRIDING REASON FOR US TO AGREE TO RELEASE THE JEZEBEL, WE BELIEVE IT SHOULD NEVERTHELESS BE CONSIDERED WHEN DECISION IS FINALLY MADE. QUESTION OF RELEASE WILL ALSO HAVE IMPACT ON US/FRENCH RELATIONS, BUT THE DEPARTMENT IS IN A BETTER POSITION THAN WE TO ASSESS JUST WHAT THIS WILL BE.

5. THE EMBASSY'S VIEW IS THAT THERE ARE STRONG REASONS, BOTH POLITICAL AND POLITICAL/MILITARY, WHY WE SHOULD AGREE TO SUPPLY THE JEZEBEL TO PAKISTAN. ON THOSE GROUNDS, WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT, DURING PRESENT DISCUSSIONS BEING HELD IN WASHINGTON, SUPPORT ITS RELEASE. BYROADE

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